

V. REMARKS

The drawing figures are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83 (a). The attached Replacement Sheet(s) of Drawings obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The specification is objected to because the title of the invention is no descriptive. The specification is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Japan Patent Application 4-218412. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Japan 412 discloses a bar code formed in a sidewall of a tire that includes projections and recesses. The height of the projections is approximately equal to the depth of the recesses such that a total volume of the projections protruding at the tire surface is approximately the same as the total volume of the recesses situated inside the tire surface.

Claim 1 is directed to a pneumatic tire that includes a carcass layer bridged between a pair of bead portions and a convex mark provided on a surface of a sidewall portion and having a shape resembling at least one of a letter, a numeral, a symbol and an emblem. Claim 1 further recites that a concave portion adjacent to said convex mark is provided on the surface of said sidewall portion, and a ratio of a volume v of the concave portion to a volume V of said convex mark is set as: $0.8V \leq v \leq 1.2V$. Further, claim 1 recites that the concave portion adjoins one of an entire inner periphery of the convex mark, an entire outer periphery of the convex mark and partially the inner periphery and partially the outer periphery of the convex mark such that the concave portion resembles the shape of the convex mark.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 1. Specifically, the applied art fails to teach a concave portion adjoining either an entire inner periphery of a convex mark, an entire outer periphery of the convex mark or partially the inner periphery and partially the outer periphery of the convex mark such that the concave portion resembles the shape of the convex mark. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 4 is directed to a pneumatic tire that includes a carcass layer bridged between a pair of bead portions and a concave mark provided on a surface of a sidewall portion and having a shape resembling at least one of a letter, a numeral, a symbol and an emblem. Claim 4 recite that a convex portion adjacent to said concave mark is provided on the surface of said sidewall portion and a ratio of a volume w of the convex portion to a volume W of said concave mark is set as: $0.8W \leq w \leq 1.2W$. Additionally, claim 4 recites that the convex portion adjoins one of an entire inner periphery of the concave mark, an entire outer periphery of the concave mark and partially the inner periphery and partially the outer periphery of the concave mark such that the convex portion resembles the shape of the concave mark.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 4. Specifically, the applied art fails to teach a convex portion adjoins either an entire inner periphery of a concave mark, an entire outer periphery of the concave mark and partially the inner periphery and partially the outer periphery of the concave mark such that the convex portion resembles the shape of the concave mark. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 4 and include all of the features of claim 4. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons the independent claims are allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Japan Patent Application 5-178013 or, alternatively, Japan Patent Application 61-81207 in view of Japan 412. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Japan 013 teaches a sidewall section of a pneumatic radial tire having circular grooves running in a circumferential direction and circular ribs disposed between the circular grooves.

Japan 207 teaches a pneumatic tire having circumferential grooves formed in the sidewall of the tire.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1. Specifically, it is

respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a concave portion adjoining either an entire inner periphery of a convex mark, an entire outer periphery of the convex mark or partially the inner periphery and partially the outer periphery of the convex mark such that the concave portion resembles the shape of the convex mark. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 4. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a convex portion adjoins either an entire inner periphery of a concave mark, an entire outer periphery of the concave mark and partially the inner periphery and partially the outer periphery of the concave mark such that the convex portion resembles the shape of the concave mark. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 4 and include all of the features of claim 4. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons the independent claims are allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claim 7 also includes features not shown in the applied art.

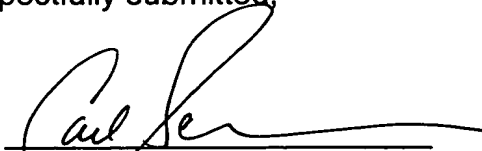
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): One (1) sheet of Replacement Drawings (FIG. 7)
One (1) sheet of Annotated Drawings showing corrections (FIG. 7)

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